

SWANSEANews

SWANSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 95 LAVINIA AVENUE, TORONTO, ON, M6S 3H9



ANNUAL WALKING TOUR: Saturday, June 4th 2016

START TIME: 1:30 pm - The walk will start in Neil McClellan Park on the west side of Runnymede Road, across from the Runnymede subway station, and finish with refreshments at the Swansea Town Hall

TOPIC: An Introduction to Swansea – Still a Community

*The Swansea Historical Society thankfully acknowledges
funding grants from the following provincial bodies:*





President's Message by Bob Roden, President

We have had a very eventful and exciting year, and I want to extend a sincere thank-you to all those who made it happen. The May 4 meeting was our last formal meeting before the summer break. We will start up again in October with our Annual General Meeting and elections, and we have a full slate of interesting speakers confirmed for the 2016-2017 programme year. In the meantime, we will be participating in several neighbourhood events, which we invite you to attend, including various guided historical walking tours. We hope to see you at our walking tours on June 4 and August 13, which will be led by Lance Gleich. Also, we plan to set up information tables at the Bloor West Village Sidewalk Sale on June 18 and the Montgomery's Inn Corn Roast & Heritage Fair on September 8, and we are seeking volunteers to take a shift at the SHS table for either one or both of those dates. See "Future Events" below, for more details on all of these happenings.

Both Heritage Toronto (heritagetoronto.org/programs/tours) and the Royal Ontario Museum (www.rom.on.ca/en/whats-on/romwalks) offer guided walking tours throughout the season. Also, Doors Open Ontario (www.doorsopenontario.on.ca) is once again in full swing, with events at various locations across the province from April through October, including Doors Open Toronto on May 28 & 29.

Looking ahead to the Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and elections in October, I want to remind you that we are a volunteer organization, and we can always use more help and fresh ideas. Some of us have served for several years on the Executive. As much as we enjoy the camaraderie, we feel the interests of the Society would be best served if we could plan to move on before passing our "best before" dates. In addition to filling jobs with ongoing responsibilities, we are also happy to welcome people on-board as "executive members without portfolio", who may be called upon to participate in specific initiatives from time to time. Attendance at monthly Executive meetings is desirable, but not mandatory. Please give some thought as to how you could contribute even a small amount of your time and talent, and let us know of any ideas you might have. And, don't be surprised if someone approaches you about getting more involved with your Society!



Summer Schedule for the Resource Centre / Archive

This is a reminder that the opening hours for the Resource Centre / Archive will be reduced during the months of June, July and August. You are more than welcome to visit us during the summer months. However, in order to ensure that one of our volunteers will be present to escort you, we recommend that you contact us at least a few days in advance to make an appointment. (Although we make every effort to respond promptly to incoming messages, it's not always possible to check our Canada Post mail and telephone and e-mail messages every day).



Swansea Historical Society on Social Media

For some time now, information related to the Swansea Historical Society, and other local organizations, has been posted on the web-site of the Swansea Town Hall – www.swanseatownhall.ca. Thank you to Town Hall staffer Carol Walmsley for her assistance in this initiative. We suggest that you check the web-site from time to time to keep abreast of events at the Town Hall and in the Swansea community.

Your Society has recently entered the 21st-century world of social media in other ways, as a means of spreading our message to a wider audience. The name of our brand new Twitter account is @Swansea_History. As a first step, we invite you to take a look at our very own Twitter feed at https://twitter.com/Swansea_History. You don't need to join Twitter to view the tweets. Please check us out and let us have your feedback.

We also expect to have a Facebook presence established soon. Thank you to Sarah Lowenberg and Sydney Reimer for spearheading these developments. If any of our readers have experience with social media, we would be delighted if you could get involved and share your knowledge with us.



Swansea Historical Society Contact Information

There are various ways you can contact your Society. Our mailing address is 95 Lavinia Avenue, Box 102, Toronto, Ontario M6S 3H9. You can send e-mails to swanseahistoricalociety@gmail.com, and the Society's mobile telephone number is 647-859-3901. Your comments and suggestions are always most welcome.



Future Events

Thursday May 26, 2016 Etobicoke Historical Society Meeting, 7:00 for 7:30 pm, Montgomery's Inn, 4709 Dundas Street West at Montgomery Road - Speaker: Bill Humber, author and professor at Seneca College, on "Forgotten Tales from Our Sporting Past".

Saturday May 28th-Sunday May 29th Doors Open Toronto – this year's theme "Re-used, Revisited and Revised", in our part of the city:

- Lambton House, 10 am-4 pm both days
- Montgomery's Inn, 10 am-5 pm both days
- High Park buildings, 10 am – 5 pm both days
- Toronto Police Service 11 Division – 10 am–4 pm both days
- Studio Junction Courtyard House – 10 am-5 pm both days
- West Toronto Masonic Temple – 10 am-5 pm both days
- ARTiculations Art Supply – Noon-5 pm both days
- Neilson Park Creative Centre – 10 am – 5 pm both days
- Runnymede Public School, open 11:30 am – 5 pm Saturday only, celebrating the school's 100th Anniversary.

- Annette Street Public Library, 10 am-5 pm Saturday only
- Junction Shul, 10 am – 5 pm Sunday only

Wednesday, June 1st 7:30 pm Village of Humber Heights (2245 Lawrence Ave West) –

Weston Historical Society – Lorne Shields, world-renowned collector of bicycle photography, presents a history of cycling using items from his collection

Friday, June 3rd 6:00 pm Lambton House – Heritage York Pub Night – Roast beef

sandwiches at 6:30 pm, music starts at 8:00 pm with Jane Drake

Saturday June 4, 2016 SHS Annual Walking Tour, 1:30 pm, Runnymede Road at Bloor Street

West, “An Introduction to Swansea – Still a Community”. The walk will start at 1:30 pm in Neil McClellan Park on the west side of Runnymede Road, across from the Runnymede subway station, and finish with refreshments at the Swansea Town Hall (95 Lavinia Avenue). For more details, see <http://janeswalk.org/canada/toronto/introduction-swansea-still-community>

Thursday, June 9th 7:30 pm Lambton House – Heritage York History Night – See a

presentation on First Story's mobile App and Tours exploring Toronto's Indigenous history.

Friday, July 1st 11:00-2:00 Lambton House – Annual Canada Day barbecue from Heritage York.

Saturday June 18, 2016 Bloor West Village Sidewalk Sale, 10 am to 4 pm, Bloor Street West at

Durie Street The Swansea Historical Society will once again be staffing an information table. Please let us know if you would be willing to take a shift at the table. No prior experience is required. Our volunteers would be pleased to show you the ropes.

Sunday, July 17th 1:30 pm Keele Street and Dundas Street West – Heritage Toronto/West

Toronto Junction Historical Society Walking Tour – James Ellis: Architect of the Junction –

Toronto's Junction neighbourhood was once a small railway town, and James Ellis was its premier architect. This tour explores Ellis' remarkable work and visits buildings he designed and frequented. <http://heritagetoronto.org/event/james-ellis-architect-of-the-junction-3>

Saturday August 13, 2016 “Sports and Recreation Along Humber Bay” Walking Tour and

Plaque Unveiling, 1:30 pm for 2 pm, starting at the Sunnyside Bathing Pavilion, 2019 Lake Shore Boulevard West. This Heritage Toronto tour will be led by members of the Swansea

Historical Society, starting at 2 pm. The eastern shore of Humber Bay has come a long way from landfill operations in the early 1900s to today's string of sports and recreation facilities and parks. Hear about past (and present) elements, including an amusement park and Easter parades, on this historical stroll from the Sunnyside Bathing Pavilion along the Lake Ontario shore-line east of the Humber River. Heritage Toronto will be unveiling two plaques commemorating the Sunnyside Amusement Park before the tour starts. Come for the plaque unveiling; and stay for the tour! Arrive by 1:30 pm to take part in both events! The tour will finish at the Argonaut Rowing Club (1225 Lake Shore Boulevard West). For more information, see <http://heritagetoronto.org/event/sports-and-recreation-along-humber-bay>

Heritage Toronto tours such as this one are offered on a *Pay What You Can* basis. A voluntary donation of \$5 to \$10 per person is suggested.

Thursday September 8, 2016 Corn Roast & Heritage Fair, 5 pm to 8 pm, Montgomery's Inn, 4709 Dundas Street West at Montgomery Road - Always an enjoyable event – the Swansea Historical Society will once again be staffing an information table. Please let us know if you would be willing to take a shift at the table. As above, our volunteers would be pleased to explain things to you if you are interested in participating.

Wednesday Oct 5, 2016 SHS Annual General Meeting & Elections, 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall
Speaker: John Beram is a history buff with a special interest in military history. We enjoyed John's presentation on "Canada Packers and the Union Stockyards" in October 2015. John will be returning in October 2016 to speak on the little-known topic of Toronto's association with the U.S. Civil War (1861-1865).

Wednesday Nov 2, 2016 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Swansea Historical Society member, author, and story-teller Dave Cook will return after almost four years with more of his fascinating "Fading History" stories about various events centred around Toronto's western suburbs during the mid-1900s.

Wednesday Dec 7, 2016 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speakers: Janice Douglas and Sarah Hall. Janice Douglas is the Deputy Warden at St. Olave's Church in Swansea, and Sarah Hall is a distinguished Canadian stained-glass artist, with many spectacular installations to her credit, in Toronto and elsewhere. Janice and Sarah will team up to present an illustrated talk about twelve of the glorious windows of St. Olave's Church that were specially designed and created for the parish church by the talented and renowned Canadian artist Yvonne Williams (1901-1997).

Wednesday February 1, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Daniel Laxer – "Music and Dance of the Fur Trade Era, 1760-1840". Daniel is a graduate student in history at the University of Toronto. His talk will highlight his studies of Canada's music and dance centred around the fur-trade era. Daniel is also an accomplished fiddle player, and he will perform some traditional music associated with the time period.

Wednesday March 1, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Rona Arato – "The Exodus 1947 – The Ship to Nowhere". Rona will be returning to Swansea with the story of the ship *Exodus 1947* (formerly the US packet steamer *SS President Warfield*). In July 1947, the ship sailed from France with 4,515 Jewish emigrants bound for Palestine, which was then part of the British Mandate. The Royal Navy prevented the passengers from landing in Haifa, and they were returned to camps in Europe. The public outcry over this incident factored into the events that led up to the creation of the State of Israel in 1948. A timely topic now when so many refugee issues are dominating the news.

Wednesday April 5, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Peter Vronsky. "The Battle of Ridgeway – The American Fenian Invasion and the 1866 Battle that Made Canada". Some 22,000 Canadians were mobilized in June 1866 to fight the Fenian invaders, and the resultant state of national emergency led to Canadian Confederation the following year.

Wednesday May 3, 2017 SHS Meeting, 7:15 for 7:30 pm, Swansea Town Hall Speaker: Anne Dublin – “The Toronto Garment-Workers' Strike of 1931”. At 10 a.m. on February 25, 1931, more than 500 women of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) stopped their work, halted their machines, and walked out of sweat shops across the city, initiating a lengthy and bitterly-fought general strike in the Toronto dressmakers' trade.



MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!!

We are still accepting membership fees for 2015-2016, and we are also encouraging members to renew early for 2016-2017. The membership year runs from September to August. The annual fees are still \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Please complete the form below. Dues can be paid at any of our meetings, or you can send payment to 95 Lavinia Avenue, Box 102, Toronto, M6S 3H9. **Your fees help to offset many costs incurred by the society.**



SWANSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



2015/2016 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
(The membership year runs from Sep – Aug)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual..... \$15.00 _____
 Family \$20.00 _____
 Corporate \$25.00 _____

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Individual.....\$250.00 _____
 Family\$500.00 _____

Family Name: _____ Given Name(s): _____ Membership Number: _____

Street Address: _____ Apartment Number: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal code: _____

Home Telephone: (_____) _____ Business Telephone: (_____) _____

E-Mail: _____ Please use e-mail for my newsletters: Yes No, thanks

Please send to: Swansea Historical Society Membership Secretary, 95 Lavinia Avenue, Box 102, Toronto, Ontario M6S 3H9